

But the fact must be kept in view, that no interval of time can elapse between emergence and resubmergence, without the interval being accented by erosion which has gone on during the interval. If the time interval in question extended through the Catskill era, Michigan standing above sea level, there should not only be a plane of paleontological non-conformity, but also nonconformable bedding; and, in soft Devonian measures, this would be deeply sculptured. None such being known in Michigan, we must conclude that the time-interval was spent *under water*; but in that case sedimentation must have gone on. We are therefore shut up to the conclusion that several thousand feet of Perry County, Pennsylvania, deposits are represented by a few yards, feet, or perhaps only inches of Michigan rocks; yet nevertheless perfectly and conformably represented.

Early Records of the Society.

Mr. Lesley, in reporting the completion of his MS. Condensed Copy of the Minutes of the Society, upon which he has been engaged, at intervals, during the last two years, said:

These Minutes, preserved in ten volumes, commence with Franklin's letter of 1744, and reach to the last meeting in December, 1837, after which the Proceedings were regularly printed for the use of the members, at first four times, and then twice a year, the first issue of 1838 being numbered 1, and the last issue of 1882, 112.

Vol. I,	1838, 1839, 1840, contains	Nos. 1 to 14.
Vol. II,	1841'3, contains	Nos. 15 to 26.
—Vol. III,	Celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary,	No. 27.
Vol. IV,	1845'7, contains	Nos. 28 to 39.
Vol. V,	1848 to 1853—	Nos. 40 to 50.
Vol. VI,	1854 to 1858—	Nos. 51 to 60.
Vol. VII,	1859 to 1860—	Nos. 61 to 64.
Vol. VIII,	1861, contains	Nos. 65 and 66.
Vol. IX,	1862 to 1864—	Nos. 67 to 72.
Vol. X,	1865 to 1868—	Nos. 73 to 80.
Vol. XI,	1869 and 1870—	Nos. 81 to 85.
Vol. XII,	1881 and 1872—	Nos. 86 to 89.
Vol. XIII,	1873 and 1874—	Nos. 90 and 91.
Vol. XIV,	1875, contains	Nos. 92 to 95.
Vol. XV,	1876, contains	No. 96.
Vol. XVI,	1876 and 1877, contains	Nos. 97 to 99.
Vol. XVII,	1877 and 1878—	Nos. 100 and 101.

Vol. XVIII, 1878 to 1880—	Nos. 102 to 106.
Vol. XIX, 1880 and 1881—	Nos. 107 to 109.
Vol. XX, 1881'2'3—	Nos. 110 to 113.
Vol. XXI, 1883, June onward,—	No. 114.

I propose that as a substitute for Vol. I, now out of print, the Society shall print a Vol. I, beginning in 1744 and containing the condensed Minutes of ninety-six years, *i. e.*, up to the beginning of 1841, thus including a condensed reprint of the present Vol. I.

The MS. which I lay on the table consists of reports of the Proceedings of every stated, adjourned or special meeting in more than seventy years, *condensed*; omitting nothing of the nature of an act or fact however unimportant, but stating it in the fewest possible words, and using a certain number of easily understood contractions, such as Soc., Lib., Don., Com., for Society, Library, Donations, Committee, &c., in order to get as many paragraphs as possible to occupy each not more than one line of printed text.

Another means made use of for diminishing the bulk of the MS. was the omission of all titles and initials to proper names, except in cases where the title or initial was needful to distinguish one individual from another of the same name.

With the same object in view, the lists of members present at meetings subsequent to 1800 are only given on important occasions, or at times when the Society was specially active or specially inactive, or after numerous admissions of new members, or at elections, or during debates protracted from meeting to meeting.

Much space was saved, and great clearness given to the record, for consultation, by ignoring most of the prolix formality and tedious verbiage of both minutes and resolutions. Short formulæ were adopted for many of the constantly recurring proceedings, such as references to and reports from committees. But resolutions of the slightest financial or historical importance are given *verbatim*; and where they are contracted or condensed, the essential wording is retained, and every word or sentence in the original is furnished in the copy with *quotation marks*, to obviate the necessity of reference to the original for the purpose of verifying the real meaning of the transaction.

Quotation marks are used throughout the copy, and by these the completeness of the copy as well as its fidelity, can be judged.

All unusual spellings of words and names are followed by the signal (*sic*). Many of the names of members are spelled by different Secretaries, in different years, and in the same year, in two or more ways; as for example: Lesueur, Le Sueur, Le Seur; Beesley, Beasley; Du Ponceau, Duponceau; Nicholls, Nicolls, Nichols; Pennington, Penington; and even Vaughan, Vaughn. Many of these variations are not due to careless transcription, but to unestablished orthography. This is especially apparent in the lawless variations in the use of initial capitals, especially in the ear-

lier years. All these curious features of our minute books have been sedulously retained in making the copy.

All annotations are placed in brackets.

Side notes, corrections and blanks are noted.

Thirty or forty blank pages have been left, in different parts of the mass of copy, to be filled by a literal copy of the original MS. in such cases as the letters of Jefferson, or long resolutions, every word of which should be retained. This filling-in can be done by a careful copyist at any time previous to the publication of the copy, or while it is going through the press.

For nearly fifty years the records of the earlier years of our Society have stood exposed to destruction, especially by fire; and it is surprising that a copy of them has never been made before now. The present copy is preserved by the President in the fire-proof vault of the Western Saving Fund Society, Walnut and Tenth streets, to be forthcoming at the order of the Society.

Its publication would not only secure it against destruction, but would no doubt give lively satisfaction to the members of the Society, who would then for the first time be able to gratify a natural and affectionate curiosity respecting the origin, growth, struggles and labors of the venerable institution to which they belong. Most of the names of noted Philadelphians appear in these minutes, and many famous men of other States, and of foreign countries.

Not the least important feature of the record is its representation of the first appearance of potent ideas; the first efforts for the improvement of the mechanic arts; the first steps taken in scientific paths; early explorations of the New World; with a pronounced eagerness to import the faculties of the Old World into it. It is not so much a record of the growth of an American Society, as a record of the growth of society in America, and in this sense alone it possesses an extraordinary historical value.

If printed, it will make a volume of about 400 pages, and can be cursorily read through at two or three sittings. The reader will probably feel what the biologist feels while spending some hours in watching, through his microscope, the metamorphoses of one of the protozoa.

The printing will be cheap, as it is all plain copy, and will require little or no correction.

It should be printed as one of our set of Proceedings; and entitled "The Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. I, Part I, from 1744 to 1838," or simply Vol. I, 1744 to 1848. It will then be placed by corresponding societies and libraries in its proper place at the beginning of the row of our Proceedings, the present Vol. I, will be recognized (even without reprinting its title page) as Vol. I, Part II. But it would be well for the Society to print an extra title page, to go out with it, and be pasted by our correspondents over the old title page of Vol. I, designating that as Part 2.

The principal use of this volume, *well indexed*, will be for referring to the

past action of the Society on subjects of order and discipline, ownership of property, and financial investments, which have always necessitated references to the written minutes tedious and often unsatisfactory. Also, when questions arise as to the ownership and history of the objects of art and books in the possession of the Society, this printed record will be found convenient.